



The JEWISH VETERAN



JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND LADIES' AUXILIARY
THE OLDEST VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

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MARCH, 1958

Kaminsky Off To Israel

National Commander's Column

By Reubin Kaminsky
National Commander



Confers With Secretary Dulles On Middle-East Tension

Write Your Congressman
On HR 7308

National Commander Reubin Kaminsky will depart on a "special mission" to Israel on April 7th, National Headquarters has announced. He will return approximately ten days later. He met with Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, for a half hour, preceding his departure, to acquaint

the Secretary with his mission. He reported that while most of the interview was "off-the-record" the Secretary of State appeared to indicate that Israel and the United States are reaching a closer understanding as to the mutual problems involved in the Middle East.

In making the announcement, Commander Kaminsky pointed out that the Jewish War Veterans membership, wherever he went throughout the country, had asked him to make the trip so that he could "bring back a first hand account of the problems Israel is facing in the ever-worsening Middle Eastern picture."

"I believe," Commander Kaminsky said, "that the American people do not yet understand the gravity of the situation confronting American interests in that area. This is not merely a problem for Israel, but one of American security."

Commander Kaminsky pointed out that he will hold top-level conferences with Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and other leaders. He will report to the National Policy Committee immediately upon his return.

Why I Am Going To Israel

I am undertaking a mission to Israel for a variety of reasons. In making this very important decision, I asked myself a simple question:

"What can I, as National Commander of an American veterans group, do to further the cause of peace in an area in the world which threatens to erupt into a conflagration which could very well set off World War III?"

It is rare in the history of our country that an American citizen could possibly be faced in such a decision. But our ties, my ties, the ties of our entire organization with Israel are a matter of public record.

The policy of our organization, stated and re-stated many times, is one which looks upon the fate of Israel, and indeed of the entire Middle East, as an American security problem.

Israel is the bastion of democracy in the Middle East.

In this position she must be given the arms she needs to defend herself against possible aggression.

The danger of the Arab States lies principally in the fact that they are well on the way to becoming tools of communist imperialism.

Their acceptance of Soviet arms and technicians was the first long step forward in that direction. Their own propaganda broadcasts make it increasingly clear that they are definitely embarked in a campaign of anti-Americanism and pro-Communism.

There is an apparent reluctance of our policy-makers to accept this as a fact. One finds it difficult to understand their conclusion—if it is a conclusion. But to many observers it appears that our policy-makers are still fumbling around with what should be the policy in the Middle East.

On the one hand it appears that they pander to the Arab States by offering them bribes if they will only sever their now unholy alliance with the Soviet Union. On the other, one sees the beginnings of a real understanding on the part of Great Britain and France, who have been on the run from fanatical nationalism in the Middle East.

One wonders if the Department of State, particularly, is wary of putting arms in the hands of the Israelis because of the fear that Israel might set the charge which will blow the area into open hostilities. How can this fear be justified in the face of the facts as they are? Is it because this feeling of distrust on the part of the State Department is actually a feeling of sympathy based on their own opinion; that, put in the same position, this country might very well strike out like a trapped tiger?

From the point of view of the Israelis, they appear to be witnessing a fading picture of their once happy relationship with the United States. They see themselves alone, irrevocably alone, in the face of the greatest menace the country has ever faced. They see themselves as sitting ducks with the enemy's heavy arms pointed to destroy their major cities. They see the latest radar equipment, jet planes, tanks, selfpropelled guns in the hands of the Arabs, while they themselves are armed with obsolete equipment.

As an idealist I should like to think that both sides are searching their souls for some amicable solution. JWV would view any further misunderstanding between our country and the democracy of Israel disastrous for the peace of the world.

Hence, because the policies of the Jewish War Veterans are being adopted throughout the Jewish community as the only logical approach, I feel it is my duty as your National Commander to explore that policy one step further. I want to be able to tell the Israeli people that America stands with them and I want to assure the American people that Israel stands with us.

You have placed a very solemn mantle of responsibility on my shoulders. I pray that God grants me the wisdom, intelligence and vision to accomplish this mission and in some way to further the cause of democracy and freedom.

Immigration Confab Set For May 20-21

The National Immigration Convocation will be held May 20 and 21st in the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C., it has been announced by Oscar J. Toye, Chairman of the event.

A hospitality committee under the chairmanship of Henrietta Y. Zoltrow Past Commander All-Girls Post 553, has begun functioning in Washington to assure delegates to the convocation the best possible accommodations.

Members planning to attend the Confab are urged to contact Miss Zoltrow 3900 16th Street, Washington, D. C. to inquire about housing accommodations.

Co-sponsors of the convocation, as this issue went to press were the American Veterans Committee, the Italian American Veterans of the World War; the Order of the Sons of Italy in America; the Portuguese Continental Union of the

(Continued on Page 3)

Toye's Hat In Ring For Judge Advocate

Oscar J. Toye, immediate Past Regional Vice Commander and Past Department Commander of Massachusetts has been unanimously endorsed by the Department of Massachusetts, MDR District Council and Mattapan Post 302 for the office of National Judge Advocate. Details will follow in the April issue of the Veteran.

Milwaukee Getting Ready For Big JWV Convention

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN—We'll see you in Milwaukee in August.

That's becoming the key to conversations these days wherever Jewish War Veterans are meeting.

And gearing activities to provide the best national convention ever held, the Wisconsin Department, JWV, has announced an unparalleled program for delegates to the 61st

Baby Sitters Also Available

Need a baby sitter or a place for your children to enjoy themselves while you're attending the national encampment August 7 to 12?

Well, your problem is solved! The National Convention Corporation is planning facilities to accommodate whatever your needs may be—so that you may attend the various convention activities without a worry about the care of your children.

Further details will appear in ensuing issues of the VETERAN.

encampment in the Beer Capital of the World August 7 to 12.

Hyman L. Kastrul, president of the National Convention Corporation, told the VETERAN:

"Please advise JWVs throughout the United States that Milwaukee will really roll out the carpet for the conventioners.

"The various activities will be held amid an aura of the finest hospitality, in keeping with the reputation of our popular city.

"The business sessions promise to be most stimulating and the entertainment phases of the conclave will attain heights never before deemed possible."

Sizeable ads and contributions are already being received by

Nathan J. Rakita, convention corporation vice president, who is chairman of the Convention Souvenir Book.

"This year's ad journal will be something all Jewish War Veterans will be proud of," Rakita said. "It'll be the type of publication that will bring an abundance of goodwill and prestige to our national and local organizations."

Harry Harrison, of Atlanta, national convention chairman, is off to a flying start with his ad promotions and convention particulars and promises good news about our special guests soon.

Harrison will be assisted in his (Continued on Page 7)

THE JEWISH VETERAN



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To those members of JWV who keep the issues of the JEWISH VETERAN, we recommend re-reading of the June, 1955, issue. In it you will find quoted in full the letter to General Bradley discussing the scope of the problems facing the President's Commission on Veterans Pensions, otherwise known as the Bradley Commission.

The views expressed at that time were those of the then National Commander, Joseph F. Barr, long before the approach of the Commission to these problems was crystalized. The comments in the letter, are, however, as vibrant and related to the issue as though they had been formulated after the briefing and interview with the members of the commission.

JWV had not been included in the Commission's plans for independent hearings. These plans included only the five Federally chartered veterans organization. We succeeded in having their plans changed and Bernard Weitzer, National Legislative Director, and National Administrator Joseph F. Barr appeared before the Commission for a scheduled hearing of one hour. They were there two hours, and then left only after the Commission regretted that other organizations were and had been waiting.

What is to be expected of this commission? Frankly, no action is to be expected from the Congress at this session. What, however, of the 85th Congress?

1. There will be a powerful drive to cut down on veterans benefits all down the line.
2. There will be a specific and powerfully-backed effort to eliminate non-service pensions to those who acquired or had the opportunity to acquire, coverage under the Social Security Act.
3. There will be an effort to cut down on medical and hospital benefits, especially to the non-service connected group.
4. There will be an effort to cut down on the time lag allowed for presumption for service incurrence, particularly in the tropical disease cases.

These examples and more could be cited, if need existed, to show that we are approaching another Economy Act Period unless specific action is taken.

In 1932 the veterans organizations supinely stood by. Are they going to do it now? That's the question.

The first question asked at the hearing, after General Bradley had briefly outlined the Commission's program to date was, in substance, whether the veterans should be considered as having a preferred status as compared with a non-veteran, for Federal benefits. The letter of June, 1955, anticipating this had said:

"One constantly faces the question, which is implied in the President's letter, i. e., are veterans to be considered as a class, apart from other citizens?"

"The answer, in our judgment, is 'yes', unless and until we have universal military service. If all persons are subject to the draft, and those who are unfit to participate in the fighting effort are required to make their contributions as soldiers behind the front upon exactly the same basis, financially speaking, as the men who are asked to serve in the military service, then a different situation would exist and a contrary answer would be in order."

This should be the position of all veterans organizations. A solid front on this issue cannot help but have its effect on the Congress as to those who may ask—innocently or otherwise—Why? We quote in conclusion another paragraph from the same letter of June, 1955:

"In my discussion of these matters with you, General Bradley, you assured me that, as you saw it, the primary objective of the Commission was to consider what measures should be provided for the veterans of the future rather than for the veterans of today. May I suggest that the Commission would do very well to study the question as to whether the benefits available to veterans of today are adequate in the light of the economy of the country as a whole. Today, our economy is based on a \$380,000,000,000 national income. Today the general wage level is far beyond what it was in 1917, in 1933, or in 1945. Shall the veteran continue to be judged by the economy which was in existence from 20 to 40 years ago?"

Readers Forum

Dear Editor:

I come to your association for this request. My very best wishes is to find and meet again a very good friend of mine. An American veterans World War II, overseas. His name is Peter Epstein.

My name is Gerard A. Beuzit, immigrant from Paris, France, registration No. A 7917223, admitted to the United States in 1950. I am living in Cambridge, Mass. with my wife.

This is my story:

Back in 1944, I was underground in Brittany, France, until the invasion in Normandy. I did my first liaison with the American Army in Morlaix, Finistere, France.

I was admitted immediately to the American Army and I met my friend, Peter Epstein in the next town, Lesenven-Finistere, July 1944.

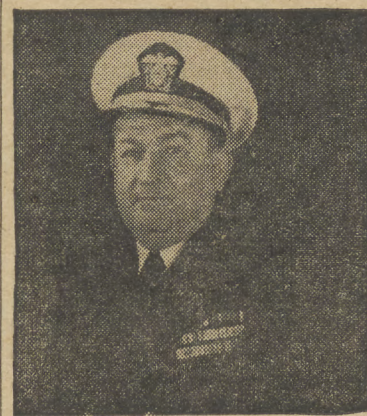
We were in the 3rd Army, 8 Signal Corps, but I do not remember exactly our company.

I left the American Army, October 1944 in Luxemburg. The name of the town was Troisvierges, close to Bastogne Belgium. I lost all my papers after that.

I made my promise to meet him in America. He was living in New York. I am sure you will try to help me in this matter. Thank you.

Very sincerely yours,
GERARD A. BEUZIT,
155 Spring St.,
Cambridge, Mass.

Isquith Named Rokeach Director



Adm. Solomon Isquith

I. Rokeach & Sons, Inc., manufacturers of food and household products since 1870, has announced the appointment of Rear Admiral Solomon S. Isquith, USN (Ret), as a Director of the company.

Abrams Praises Brotherhood Act

Brotherhood in action was praised by the Department of New Jersey, Jewish War Veterans, through its Commander, Bernard Abrams, of Jersey City.

A Catholic family, DPs from Hungary, Mr. and Mrs. Johann Klausz, their son, Johann, Jr., and daughter, Terez, were desperately in need of a sponsor to enter this country.

Jewish tire dealer George Schanerman of Newark, New Jersey, heard about the desperate plight of this family and offered his services as a sponsor.

In addition, he turned over rent-free to this Catholic family his 40-acre farm in Hightown, N. J., including a six-room farmhouse, with new furniture, new wardrobes for the Klauszes, and stocked the farm with livestock and food.

Ft. Monmouth Report

An Analysis Of Latest Decision

By JOSEPH F. BARR
National Administrator

I am sorry to report that on March 29th I was advised, unofficially, that the Board of Review appointed to reconsider the decision in one of those dismissed at Ft. Monmouth had affirmed the prior decision.

I think it important to emphasize that JWV had never, at any time, asserted that the charges against these men were unfounded. All we said was that the investigation, in our opinion, was permeated with anti-Semitism, and, on that account, these men who had been dismissed because of suspected disloyalty, all Jewish, could not have received a fair and impartial trial or review.

The question now is—what steps, if any, are to be taken? Harry Green, the attorney representing

the individual whose case has been reviewed at our insistence, will have to decide whether he recommends further administrative effort to his client or whether he will seek judicial review.

At the date this edition goes to press there has not been enough time to hear from him or his client. Our action will, as I see it, have to depend in large measure on what their decision may be.

As I see it, too, unless there was a re-investigation of the facts in this case before the last Review Board acted, it would seem that the anti-Semitism established as having occurred in the original investigation, which colored the record as a whole, may not have been completely excluded from even their last review.

This does not mean that I, in any way, challenge the fairness or impartiality of the Reviewing Board. All I said is that it was unfair even to the Review Board not to investigate the whole mess. I may emphasize at this point that my first request to the then Secretary of the Army Stevens was for an investigation, not a review.

Thus, the factual question arises—what material did the final Board of Review use in arriving at its conclusion? We intend to get the answer to this question if we can. More on this in the next issue of the JEWISH VETERAN.

State Dept. Mulls Info

The State Department is considering answering an informational through reliable sources. The request made by JWV on the subject of the Daharan Base in Saudi Arabia, JWV has learned request for information on this subject was originally made to the Department of Defense, from where it was bucked over to the State Department with the explanation that the matter referred to "problems of international relations."

The request for information addressed to Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson written by National Commander Kaminsky is as follows:

"My Dear Mr. Secretary:

"Certain statements have been made to me by a source that I am not at liberty to reveal at the present time, which have been of considerable concern to me.

"First and most important of these statements is that on the U. S. Airbase at Daharan, Saudi Arabia, the American flag is not permitted to fly. I think without going into any of the matters at length which are involved in an issue of this kind, my concern as the head of a veterans organization is readily understandable.

"The next matter is one in which I, as a communicant of a particular faith, am not involved. However, what is involved is my belief that the right of an individual to worship God in a manner of his own choice and do it openly without fear or without quoting a favor, is an unalienable right under the American system. I am informed that Chaplains of the United States military forces are required to remove the insignia denoting their religious office in traveling through Saudi Arabia, and this goes so far as to require them not to wear such insignia while on the base. My information further is that whatever religious services held on the base must be done on a surreptitious basis.

"I find it extremely difficult to credit any of these statements, yet my source is such that I cannot discount them altogether. Hence, I would appreciate hearing from you on the truth of any, as well as all, of these statements. Should you prefer to discuss this with me personally I will be available at your convenience.

"Sincerely yours,
"REUBIN KAMINSKY,
"National Commander."

Supply Problems Settled

National Headquarters is pleased to report that, at long last, we are on top of the supply situation. The difficulty, caused in the first place by the marriage, and subsequent resignation of the one clerk who had, since National Headquarters moved to Washington in 1954, handled supplies, has now been resolved. All orders are now filled and mailed, if the materials are those in stock, on the day the order is received. Any delays are attributed, if they occur, either to failure to forward the payment for the merchandise or to the necessity to order the merchandise from the manufacturer.

It is important to emphasize at this point that supplies are sold only on a cash basis. We must pay our suppliers within thirty days, some sooner. We do not have the available thousands of dollars to lay out in selling supplies on an accounts receivable basis.

It is important to remember that in ordering caps and other items for individual use, National Headquarters must order these from the supplier. Hence, give National the leeway in point of time to order. Don't ask for shipment of embroidered caps or flags or rings, etc., a week before you need them. Anticipate your needs. We will do our best to accommodate you. We are on top of the situation now. With your help we can stay there.

Don't Forget
To
Give Blood